(b) Upgradation of weaponry of the paramilitary forces is an ongoing process and the forces are being provided with appropriate weapons in order to ensure that they are in a position to effectively deal with the emerging security scenario.

(c) The central para-military forces are involved in the anti-militancy operations in J&K alongwith Army and J&K Police and have been able to achieve success on a regular basis in neutralising the militants and foiling infiltration attempts etc. During the current calender year (upto 15.11.1999) 945 militants have been killed by the security forces in J&K.

BID of Baptists for Conversions

242. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 22nd October, 1999 under the caption, Baptists bid co-convert Hindus;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the matter at the appropriate forum; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) According to Article 25(1) of Constitution of India, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health. Since, 'Public Order' is listed as Item No.I of List-II State List of 7th Schedule of the Constitution, any Law & Order matters relating to conversions are to be taken care of by the respective State Governments.

Militancy in J&K

243. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the militants in Jammu and Kashmir revived a full throttle war with security forces and perpetrated

murders and killings of innocent civilians in the State, during the period following dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha; and

(b) if so, the details of the major incidents, indicating the lives lost and property damaged in the course of militants activities during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) There have been continued efforts of the part of Pak ISI and pro-Pak militant outfits to induct more mercenaries from across the border into J&K with a view to carry out terrorist activities. The month-wise details of terrorist related violent incidents like civilians killed, number of incidents and property damaged from May 1999 onwards are as follows:

	May 99	June 99	July 99	Aug. 99	Sept. 99	Oct. 99	Nov.99 (15/11/99)
No of incidents	220	244	292	323	438	258	110
No. of militants Killed by Security Forces	94	58	68	114	145	127	56
No. of civilians killed	73	81	102	86	80	57	20
No of Security forces killed	24	26	22	70	28	18	31
Property damaged (Govt. buildings, educational Institutions, Private Houses, Bridges, Shops, Hospitals)	141	278	311	326	350	377	n.a.